

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 /092 W

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R 260048Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2546

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS USUN 0547

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN, BC, RH

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA PRESS RELEASE

REF: CAPETOWN 264

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MISSION OF BOTSWANA PRESS RELEASE
DATED FEBRUARY 21.

QUOTE 21 FEBRUARY 1977

SOUTHERN RHODESIAN SOLDIER SHOT IN BOTSWANA

THE ILLEGAL MINORITY REGIME IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA CONTINUES
TO VIOLATE BOTSWANA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
BY SENDING OUT ITS SECURITY FORCES TO CARRY OUT VIOLENT
TERRORIST ACTIONS WITHIN BOTSWANA'S BORDERS IN DEFIANCE
OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 403 OF 14 JANUARY 1977.

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THIS RESOLUTION, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONDEMNED ALL ACTS OF
PROVOCATION AND ATTACKS COMMITTED BY THE ILLEGAL REGIME AND
DEMANDED IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL CESSATION OF SUCH HOSTILE ACTS.

THE ILLEGAL, RACIST REGIME, FACED WITH A STRONG DETERMINATION
ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO RID THEMSELVES
OF OPPRESSION AND GAIN THEIR RIGHTS, IN ACTING IRRESPONSIBLY

IN CREATING TENSION ALL OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA BY ITS SENSELESS ACTIONS.

IN A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ON 19TH FEBRUARY, 1977 THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA ANNOUNCED THAT ON FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 1977 FIVE RHODESIAN SOLDIERS IN CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS ATTACKED A SMALL VILLAGE OF SHOSHWE WHICH IS 13 KILOMETRES INSIDE BOTSWANA FROM THE BORDER WITH SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND WOUNDED A CIVILIAN NAMED MR. SHABALA WITH A BULLET IN THE STOMACH. A UNIT OF THE POLICE MOBILE UNIT CONSISTING OF THREE BOTSWANA POLICE ON PATROL IN THE AREA SHOT AND KILLED ONE OF THE RHODESIAN SOLDIERS DURING THE INCIDENT. THE MAN WAS LATER IDENTIFIED AS DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JOHN MICHAEL HARLOW.

THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 19, 1977 A SOUTHERN RHODESIAN SPOTTER PLANE WAS SEEN FLYING LOW OVER THE VILLAGE AND WAS FOLLOWED BY A HELICOPTER FULL OF ARMED SOLDIERS OF THE ILLEGAL REGIME WHICH LANDED NEAR THE SCENE OF THE GUNFIGHT OF THE PREVIOUS DAY AND TOOK OFF AFTER A FEW MINUTES. THIS WAS THE TENTH REPORTED INCURSION INTO BOTSWANA BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES THIS YEAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN00547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770067-0688
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977025/aaaaaegz.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 34e6f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 264
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3341221
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTSWANA PRESS RELEASE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PBOR, BC, RH, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34e6f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009